



## Virtual Workshop

### The diagnosis of human T-cell lymphotropic virus (HTLV) and strategies to expand HTLV screening in the context of Maternal and Child Health

July 07, 2023 - 10:00am – 12:00pm (EST, Washington, DC)

Register here: [https://paho-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_8cBvkSzVT0-ytJ2PFI7yFA](https://paho-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8cBvkSzVT0-ytJ2PFI7yFA)

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and its member States recognize the human T cell lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1) as a matter of concern in the region. In the past years PAHO has been engaging with different stakeholders, including HTLV-1 specialists, health managers and people living with HTLV-1 to define priorities and to delineate effective strategies to tackle this neglected infection.

One of the top priorities is the prevention of HTLV-1 mother-to-child transmission. However, to be able to prevent vertical transmission, pregnant women living with HTLV-1 must be aware of their status. The coverage of HTLV-1 screening of blood donors is high in the region, but antenatal screening is still limited. Countries still face barriers to implement diagnostic tests for HTLV. There are no international guidelines for HTLV-1 diagnostics and national guidance may vary between countries.

In this context, PAHO and the *HTLV Channel* are promoting a workshop to discuss the diagnosis of HTLV-1 infection, particularly in the context of maternal and child health. Specific objectives of this webinar include:

- Discuss the laboratory diagnosis of HTLV-1 infection, including diagnostic algorithms and performance of laboratory assays.
- Share experiences of different Member of States regarding HTLV-1 diagnosis, including current practices, challenges, and perspectives.
- Promote discussion about the laboratory follow-up of HTLV-1 exposed infants.
- Delineate strategies to reduce the costs of HTLV-1 diagnosis and to overcome current barriers.

The event will feature interpretation in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Link for registration:

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### Agenda

	Activity	
10h-10:10	Welcome and opening remarks. Dr Massimo Ghidinelli, PAHO/WHO Dr Carolina Rosadas Civil Society representative	<b>Moderator: Leandro Sereno PAHO/WHO</b> PAHO/WHO HTLV Channel / Imperial College London TBC
10:10-10:30	<b>HTLV diagnosis in pregnant women: State of the art and perspectives</b> (current algorithms, performance of assays, cost, and challenges).	Prof. Graham Taylor, Imperial College, United Kingdom
10:25-10:40	<b>HTLV diagnosis in blood banks.</b> (Overview and strategies to improve service and surveillance in the Americas).	Mauricio Beltran Duran PAHO/WHO
10:40-10:50	<b>Discussion</b>	
10:50-11:20	<b>National experiences and perspectives:</b>  <b>Chile:</b> Current practices for blood donor screening and perspectives of antenatal screening.  <b>Brazil:</b> Strategies to expand access to HTLV-1 diagnosis in Brazil.  <b>TBC:</b> HTLV-1 screening in the antenatal care and leveraging on the EMTCT Plus Initiative.	<b>Moderator: Carolina Rosadas, HTLV Channel, Imperial College London</b>  Dr Jorge Valdebenito, Ministry of Health Chile  Dr Angelica Miranda, Ministry of Health, Brazil.  TBC, Ministry of Health
11:20-11:30	<b>HTLV-1 diagnosis in pediatric patient and follow up of exposed infants.</b>	Dr Juan Rojas, Universidad Libre Seccional Cali, Colombia
11:30-11:40	<b>Improving HTLV-1 diagnostics through international collaboration.</b>	Dr Mirna Biglione, CONICET, INBIRS, UBA, Argentina
11:40-11:50	<b>Discussion</b>	
11:50-12:00	<b>Final Comments and Closing Remarks</b>	<b>PAHO/WHO</b>